

# METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING MULTIMEDIA INFORMATION ON DEMAND OVER WIDE AREA NETWORKS

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Systems and methods for delivering streaming data content to a client device over a data communication network in response to a request for the data content from the client device. The client request is received by a server or a controller device that is typically located on a network switch device. If received by a server, the server sends a request to the controller device to control the transfer of the requested data to the client. The controller device includes the processing capability required for retrieving the streaming data and delivering the streaming data directly to the client device without involving the server system. In some cases, the controller device mirrors the data request to another controller device to handle the data processing and delivery functions. In other cases, the controller device coordinates the delivery of the requested data using one or more other similar controller devices in a pipelined fashion.

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